

THE SHELTER DISH

The Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department

Summer 2004 Edition



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Welcome to *The Shelter Dish*, the newsletter of the Fairfax County Animal Services Division!

Inside, you will find everything you would need to know about the Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services Division.

It's Kitten Season!

During the summer months ASD's feline population skyrockets. We have many kittens and adult cats who are available for adoption.

Visit the Animal Shelter today and you might just find a new addition to your family!

Rabies Clinic

INFORMATION

The Animal Services Division offers a low cost rabies clinic as a service to Fairfax County residents. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. The clinics are sponsored by the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and are offered the second Sunday of every other month.

You can also see animals available for adoption on Adopt-A-Pet on County Cable Channel 16.

Sundays, Mondays and Fridays-
2:30PM

Thursdays- 8:30PM

Saturdays- 6:30PM



Time:
12PM to 2PM

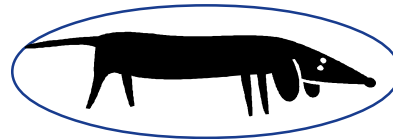
Cost:
\$10.00

**Upcoming Rabies
Clinic Date:**

November 14, 2004

Don't forget to purchase your Fairfax County Dog License!

Fairfax County dog licenses must be purchased annually. Please bring your rabies certificate and proof of sterilization. Licenses can be purchased at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or at the Government Center. Licenses can also be purchased by mail to either location. License fees are \$5.00 for sterile dogs and \$10.00 for fertile dogs.



Fairfax Use Only		County of Fairfax, Virginia		Dog License
License Number		Department of Tax Administration	12000 Government Center, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035	Expires Dec. 31, _____
Rabies Expiration Date		(703) 222-8259		
Animal Code		For Enrolled: \$		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat	Fertile Dog: \$10.00	Spayed/Neutered Dog: \$5.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat	Please include a current certificate of rabies vaccination and, if applicable, spay/neuter certification.		
Owner Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Phone				
City/Town/Post Office	State	Have you ever licensed this dog before in Fairfax County? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Valid only if stamped PAID by Department of Tax Administration				



Did you know?

Guinea pigs (a.k.a., cavies) make great pets for older children because they are very responsive and have a range of noises to indicate when they are happy, hungry, scared, hurt or angry. It doesn't take long to learn to interpret those noises and get a little conversation going :-)

But as we see time and time again, kids sometimes lose interest in their pets, and guinea pigs can live 5-8 years on average. No responsible parent should get a guinea pig for their child unless they are willing to take over the animal's care if and when the child stops doing it. Adoption is for life!

Another interesting fact: guinea pigs can do something called "popcorning" or "popping" when extremely happy. They do a little jump and wiggle in the air.

Guinea pigs need supervised time exploring outside their cage/enclosure for exercise and for entertainment. Cardboard boxes with a few holes to get in and out of make great, inexpensive guinea pig toys. You can let your pig play on a brick or concrete block to wear down the nails. They are not really jumpers so they need ramps or short steps to climb around to different levels in a cage. Also because they're not jumpers, there's no need for a top on their enclosures.

Like rabbits, guinea pigs need lots and lots of timothy or grass hay all the time supplemented by a variety of fresh veggies and a bit of guinea pig pellets every day. Unlike rabbits, they need to get vitamin C daily, which can be in the form of veggies or fruits high in vitamin C or in chewable tablets.

"I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult." ~Rita Rudner



"Ever consider what pets must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

~Anne Tyler, *The Accidental Tourist*



- Towels or Small Blankets
- Newspaper
- Food (canned and dry), Treats
- Toys, Leashes, Collars, Dishes, Crates, Cages
- Small Animal Supplies (Rabbit, Bird, Guinea Pig, Hamster cages, & foods)

“Ask Eudy”

An advice column for all things animal related

Dear Eudy,

I have stray cats that live in my neighborhood and are fed by some of the neighbors. Some people refer to them as being feral, not stray. What is the difference between a stray cat and a feral cat?

J.K., McLean

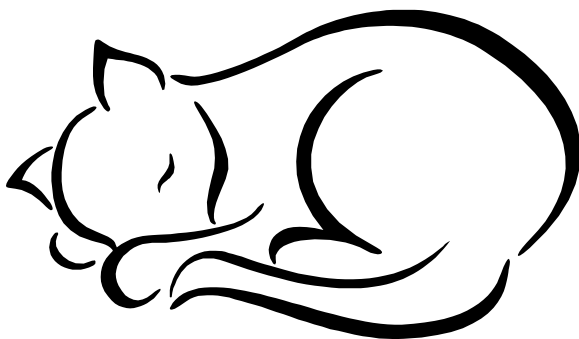


Eugene Huggins writing his column

Dear J.K.,

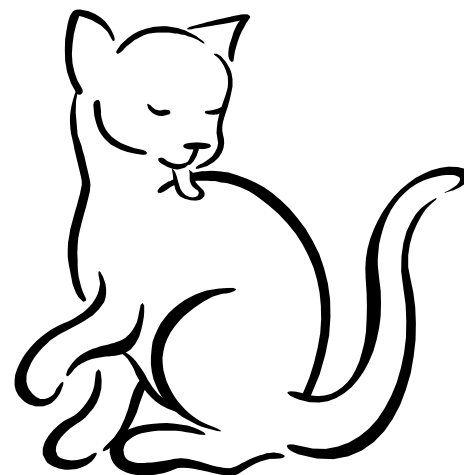
Making the determination between a stray cat and feral cat can indeed be difficult at times. After researching this topic, I discovered an organization based in San Diego, California called the **Feral Cat Coalition**. To answer your question, here is an excerpt from their website, www.feralcat.com.

“So, you ask, what exactly *is* a **feral cat**??? Read on, and you’ll learn more about a problem that’s causing a lot of suffering — and costing you money!!!



Feral cats are the ‘wild’ offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners’ **abandonment or failure to spay and neuter** their animals, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral cat ‘colonies’ can be found behind shopping areas or businesses, in alleys, parks, abandoned buildings, and rural areas. They are elusive and do not trust humans.

Many people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave them behind. Contrary to popular belief, **domestic animals** do not automatically return to their “natural” instincts and **cannot fend for themselves!** Already, U.S. animal shelters are forced to kill an estimated 15 million homeless cats and dogs annually. The alternative to humane euthanasia for almost every stray is a violent end or slow, painful death. Many “throwaways” die mercilessly outdoors from starvation, disease, abuse — or as food to a predator.

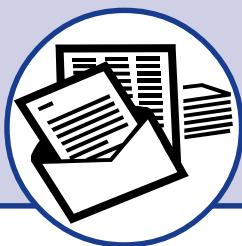


A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can exponentially produce **420,000 offspring** over a seven-year period, And the overpopulation problem carries a **hefty price tag.** “

The organizations in the Washington, D.C. metro area that specialize in working with strays and ferals are:

- **Alley Cat Allies**
1801 Belmont Road NW, Suite 201
Washington, DC 20009-5147
Phone: 202-667-3630
(www.alleycat.org)
- **Metro Ferals**
P.O. Box 7138
Arlington, VA 22207
Phone: (703) 528-7782
(www.metroferals.org)

Do you have a question for Eudy?



Mail your questions to:

“Ask Eudy”

4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Contributing Writer:

Caretaker Supervisor Eugene Huggins has worked at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for 18 years.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

We would love for you to volunteer with us!

Please take a moment to read through this list to see if you would be interested in applying to become a Fairfax County Animal Services Division Volunteer.

- The minimum age for Volunteers is 16 years old.
- There is a required time commitment of 3 months and at least 8 hours a month to volunteer with us.
- You must pass a basic criminal background check before you will be called for an interview.
- Volunteers sign up for time slots in the areas in which they are trained.
- Each volunteer is trained for a minimum of two specialties of their choosing.
- The current ten specialties include:



Lead Small Mammal Assistant Mary socializing a rabbit

Dog Walker- *Assist in the socialization of dogs available for adoption by walking them in a specified area. Volunteers are encouraged to interact with dogs by talking, brushing, and playful contact.*

Kennel Assistant- *Assist caretakers with duties associated with animal care, cleaning cages, filling water bowls and taking animals out of cages to visit with potential adopters. This job also includes routine maintenance such as washing laundry, food pans, sweeping, etc.*

Grooming Assistant- *Assist caretakers with the grooming of animals at the shelter. Duties include bathing animals, clipping nails and other tasks related to the upkeep of an animal.*

Cat Socialization- *Assist in the socialization of cats available for adoption by handling, brushing, speaking softly, and playful contact. Duties also include spot cleaning cages, replacing water, and cleaning litter boxes throughout the day.*

Small Mammal Assistant- Assist caretakers with duties associated with rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other small mammals. Duties include spot cleaning cages, replenishing water and hay, and sweeping around cages. Volunteer also interacts with the public and must have prior experience with small mammals.

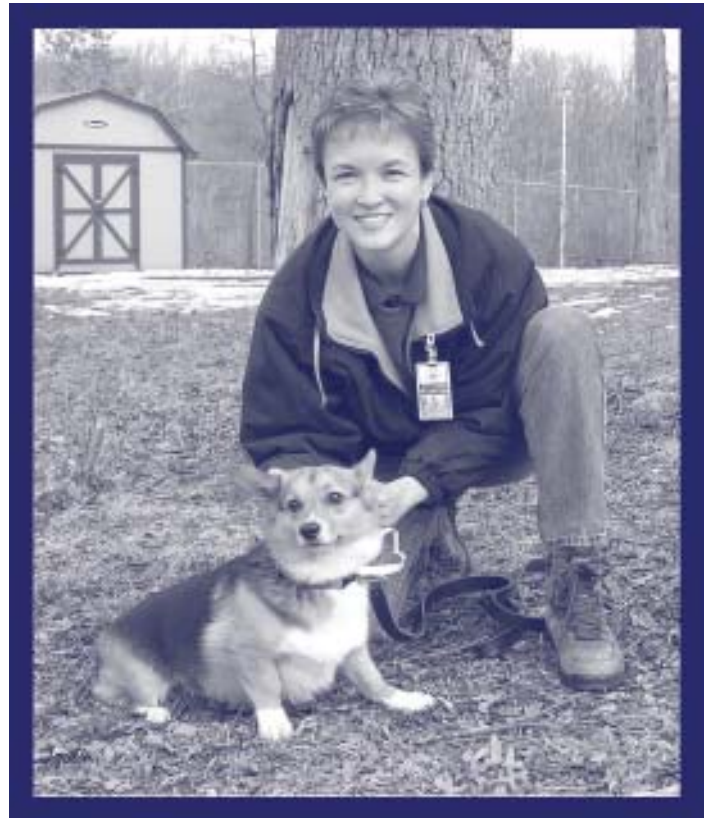
Front Office Assistant- Assist the front office staff with such duties as updating lost and found reports, assisting citizens at the counter with the purchase of licenses, questions regarding adoption policies and other animal issues.

Administrative/Multimedia Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with administrative duties in the Volunteer Office. Duties include assisting with website photography, scanning images, creating flyers, etc. Some graphic design background is preferred.

Receptionist/Telephone Assistant- Assist the front office staff with answering phones and dissemination of information. Responsibilities include taking lost and found reports over the phone as well as providing information to the public in regards to the Animal Services Division.

Events/Tours Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with guided tours of the Shelter. Duties include providing groups of all ages and numbers detailed information about the Animal Services Division and acting as a representative of the Animal Services Division at public events. Volunteers with extroverted personalities are preferred.

Adoption Counselor Assistant (To be added)- Assist in the counseling process of the public. Duties include reviewing personality profiles of animals in the Shelter to properly match a citizen with a specific animal. Must have good communication skills.

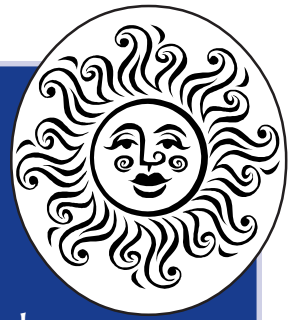


Dog Walker Jami exercising a dog

Want an application?

Applications are available at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/volunteer.htm>. Online applications are available in Adobe PDF and Microsoft Word format.

Warm Weather Tips



- It is important to make sure that your pet has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh water. Heat stroke can be fatal for pets as well as people.
- Leaving your pet outside unattended even for a few minutes places your animal companion at risk of theft or harm.
- Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On hot days, save longer walks and games of catch for the cooler mornings and evenings. Be especially careful with short-nosed dogs like pugs and bulldogs. Their facial conformation makes it difficult for them to cool their bodies by panting.
- Don't chain or tether your dog. It allows no opportunity for exercise and socialization, and when done for long periods of time can lead to behavior problems. Instead, set aside time every day to walk or play ball with your dog.
- Keep your cat indoors. Though your feline friend may wish to explore the outdoors, cats who are permitted to go outside are at an increased risk of disease and injury from vehicles or other animals.
- Though numerous car commercials depict it as the ultimate joy in a dog's life, allowing your canine companion to stick his head out the window is asking for trouble. Doing so can subject your pet to injury by flying debris.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car. On warm days, the temperature in your car can rise to 120 degrees in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. Also, an animal left alone in a car is an open invitation to pet thieves.
- Dogs should never ride in the back of pick-up trucks, and some states have laws that restrict such transport. If you are forced to make a sudden or evasive driving maneuver, your dog could be thrown from the truck and seriously, or even fatally, injured.

Get your Animal Friendly license plates today!

As a revenue sharing plate, \$ 15.00 of the \$ 25.00 fee is transferred to the **locality in which the vehicle is registered** for support of dog and cat sterilization programs.



To purchase your Animal Friendly license plates, please visit your local DMV office, or visit <http://www.dmv.state.va.us>

Where are they now?

Updates from Alumni of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Hello there!

My name is Lucky Boy, I'm a chow/retriever mix, and I was adopted March 2, 2002 from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. That was the day I received my name, came home with my new mom, and was introduced to my cat sister. I was wandering the streets nearly a month before that when the nice shelter people gave me a lift and a temporary home.



The day my new mom found me at the shelter, she said she couldn't believe all the other people passing by my kennel. They probably saw the gray on my muzzle and figured I wasn't playful like the puppy next-door. I came up to the front of the kennel to greet my new mom and rolled over for her to rub my tummy. It was love at first sight. We socialized a bit, she signed my release papers, and she took me on a ride to PETSMART to pick up my food, bowls, toys and a leash. I was a free man!

My new mom noticed right away that I was housebroken and walked obediently on a leash. She bragged to all of her friends what a great addition I had become to the family in such a short period of time. She took me to a "doggy daycare" for 2 weeks for obedience classes to learn basic commands. I was neutered as an adult shortly after coming home and had a great check-up at the vet. My fur was matted and my teeth were yellow, but those were things that could be changed with preventive maintenance. My mom is still working with me on a few things. I don't really like other dogs very much. I'm only 50 pounds, but I am certain I can take on another dog 2-3 times my own size! I am proud to serve the titles of both "watchdog" and "companion." I keep a vigilant eye on the front door and greet each person who comes knocking. I know the difference between friends and strangers...guess that's the chow in me. I'm very alert on our walks and I'm very protective of my mom, although she tells me to lighten up at times.

My mom celebrates my adoption date as my birthday and holds an annual fundraiser for the Shelter to commemorate the occasion. We know a lot of people who have rescued pets and love to contribute to such a worthwhile cause. My mom also volunteers to care for and play with other dogs just like me at the Shelter. All I ever really wanted was to be part of a family. I'm so grateful my mom gave an older dog like me a chance at a new life!

Love,
Lucky

Contributed by Lucky and his new family.

Do you have an alumni story for us?

Mail your story to:

"Alumni Stories"
4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030



(A)

Aloe
Amaryllis
Andromeda Japonica
Asian Lily (Liliaceae)
Asparagus Fern
Australian Nut
Autumn Crocus
Avocado
Azalea

(B)

Bird of Paradise
American Bittersweet
European Bittersweet
Branching Ivy
Buckeye
Buddist Pine

(C)

Caladium
Calla Lily
Castor Bean
Ceriman
Charming Dffenbachia
Chinaberry Tree
Chinese Evergreen
Christmas Rose
Clematis
Cordatum
Corn Plant
Cornstalk Plant
Cutleaf Philodendron
Cycads
Cyclamen

(D)

Daffodil
Day Lily
Devil's Ivy

Dumb Cane
Deadly Nightshade

(E)

Easter Lily
Elephant Ears
Emerald Feather
Emerald Fern
English Ivy

(F)

Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron
Flamingo Plant
Florida Beauty
Foxglove
Fruit Salad Plant

(G)

Glacier Ivy
Gladiolas
Glory Lily
Gold Dieffenbachia
Gold Dust Dracaena
Golden Pothos
Green Gold Nephthysis

(H)

Hahn's self-branching English Ivy
Heartleaf Philodendron
Heavenly Bamboo
Holly
Horsehead Philodendron
Hurricane Plant
Hyacinth
Hydrangea

(I)

Iris

(J)

Japanese Show Lily

Japanese Yew
Jerusalem Cherry

(K)

Kalanchoe

(L)

Lace Fern
Lacy Tree
Lily of the Valley

(M)

Macadamia Nut
Madagascar Dragon Tree
Marble Queen
Marijuana
Mauna Loa Peace Lily
Mexican Breadfruit
Mistletoe "American"
Morning Glory
Mother-in-Law

(N)

Narcissus
Needlepoint Ivy
Nephthytis
Nightshade

(O)

Oleander
Onion
Orange Day Lily

(P)

Panda
Peace Lily
Philodendron Pertusum
Plumosa Fern
Precatory Bean

(Q)

Queensland Nut

(R)

Red Emerald
Red Lily
Red-Margined Dracaena
Red Princess
Rhododendron
Ribbon Plant (Dracaena sanderiana)
Rubrum Lily

(S)

Saddle Leaf Philodendron
Sago Palm
Satin Pothos
Schefflera
Spotted Dumb Cane
Stargazer Lily
Striped Dracaena
Sweetheart Ivy
Swiss Cheese Plant

(T)

Taro Vine
Tiger Lily
Tomato Plant
Tree Philodendron
Tropic Snow Dumbcane
Tulip

(V)

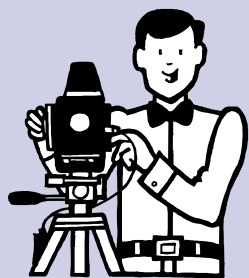
Variable Dieffenbachia
Variegated Philodendron

(W)

Warnecker Dracaena
Wood Lily

(Y)

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
Yew
Yucca



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is having a Photo Contest!

The winner will be published in our newsletter and displayed during community events. Please submit original photographs of your shelter pets. Entries will be judged on composition and subject matter. Please submit photographs of at least 4" x 6" for which you possess negatives (for film cameras) or a source file (for digital cameras).

Entry deadline is December 1, 2004. Please include your name, address and telephone number with submission. Photographs can be submitted in person at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or please mail to:

"FCAS Photo Contest"
4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

All photographs will be returned after the contest.

Get to Know...

Animal Caretaker Samantha Albert

Where were you born?

Honolulu, Hawaii

How long have you been an Animal Caretaker?

17 months

What are some of your hobbies?

Eating, reading, anything to do with movies, attending graduate school, fishing, Mystery dinners



How many siblings do you have?

One older sister

How many pets do you have?

Two: a domestic medium haired cat named Shadow, a.k.a. Fa'Keisha and a Staffordshire terrier named Ethan

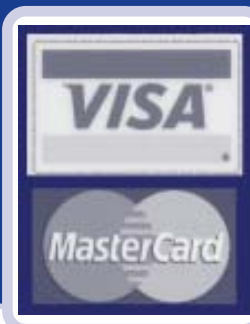
What kinds of animals have you had during your lifetime?

Dogs, cats, fish, reptiles

What are some interesting things about you that we might not know?

- I am currently working towards my Master's Degree in Natural Resources.
- I own approximately 65 bottles of nail polish.
- I worked for the National Zoo in the cheetah conservation station and department of invertebrates.
- I have never owned anything but sports cars.

**Animal Services Division
now accepts
Visa and
Mastercard!**



ASD's

Pet

of the Month



Shelter Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 8AM to 6PM
Saturday, 8AM to 5PM

Adoption Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10AM to 5PM
Saturday, 10AM to 4PM

The Shelter is closed Sundays,
Mondays and holidays.

Green

Green is an adult male
parakeet who is here with
his companion Blue.
Won't you come and
adopt this great pair?



Photo: Meaghan O'Malley

Fairfax County Police Department

Animal Services Division

4500 West Ox Road

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(703) 830-1100 (Shelter)

(703) 830-3310 (Animal Control Dispatch)

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals



Did you forget to buy your county dog license?

Dog licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Government Center.